



Everyone must take responsibility to help stop the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. This includes law enforcement and regulatory agencies, doctors and pharmacists, pharmaceutical companies –and everyday citizens.

Project Medicine Drop lets you dispose of your unused and expired household medications, safely and securely, at any time: 24/7/365.

Visit [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrops](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrops)

**My nearest Drop Box location:**

**NJ Division of Consumer Affairs**

**P.O. Box 45027**

**Newark, NJ 07101**



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The abuse of prescription painkillers is every bit as dangerous and deadly as the abuse of illicit drugs such as heroin – and it is growing at epidemic rates. For those who abuse and sell these drugs, the easiest way to obtain them is to raid the medicine cabinets of relatives and acquaintances.

Project Medicine Drop is an important part of New Jersey's solution to this problem.

In partnership with local law enforcement agencies, the Division of Consumer Affairs has made it as easy as possible for you to safely and securely dispose of your unused medications.

We also provide valuable information on how to keep a close eye on the medications in your home ... and how to talk with your relatives about the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

Read on for important guidance on how to Be AWARE – and handle your prescription medications responsibly.

To learn more call 800-242-5846 or visit [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrops](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrops)

**Two in five teenagers mistakenly believe prescription drugs are much safer than illegal drugs.**

**In a growing trend, N.J. teens who abused prescription drugs went on to become addicted, and turned to heroin use.**

**Each year, 10 million Americans abuse prescription drugs.**

**STEP ONE: Communication**

Parents, grandparents and young people should talk about the dangers of taking prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications for nonmedical and nonapproved uses.

Make sure your young relatives know you will be keeping an eye on the prescription and OTC drugs in your home, and that you have asked other relatives to do the same.

Be alert for the possible signs of drug abuse and addiction; visit our website for specifics.

**STEP TWO: Inventory**

Keep an inventory of the prescription and OTC medications in your home. Update it every six months – or more often, if you suspect abuse.

If you have many different medications, keep all of them in one place in your home.

Consider keeping them in a locked cabinet, locked drawer, or childproof lock box.

**STEP THREE: Disposal of Unused Medications**

Doctors may prescribe more medications than you actually need. As a result, you may have a large number of unused and expired medications. It is important to dispose of these drugs in a manner that is safe and secure – and keep them from falling into the hands of anyone who might abuse them.

**DO NOT** give them to friends. Doctors prescribe drugs based on patients' specific symptoms and medical histories. A drug that helps you may harm someone else.

**DO NOT** simply flush them into the water supply – this causes risks to the environment, and may affect the health of others. Many medications can have harmful effects on children, infants or pregnant women, for example – and should not be released into the environment.

**DO NOT** simply place medications into the trash. This may make them available to those who would abuse or sell them.

The safest and most secure way to dispose of unused medications is through **Project Medicine Drop**. Go to our website, [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/mecddrop](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/mecddrop), to find the Project Medicine Drop location nearest to you.

**What to Expect at the Drop**

The Project Medicine Drop is a secure and confidential location where you can safely dispose of unused medications.

New Jersey's Project Medicine Drop is a secure and confidential location where you can safely dispose of unused medications.

Please bring only unused medications in their original containers. Do not bring pills, capsules, or other loose medications.

To safely dispose of medications – or to learn more about Project Medicine Drop, follow these steps:

Make the process as easy as possible. Bring your medications to the Project Medicine Drop. Do not bring them to a coffee grinder, coffee mixer, or other sealable container. Do not bring any prescription medications with your name and address on the label.

**To learn more call 800-242-5846 or visit [www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov)**